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ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

Report of the Second Committee (Part VII)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Rae Kwon CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 98 (see A/52/629, para. 2). Action taken on sub-item (f) was considered at the 38th, and 47th meetings on 12 November and 4 December 1997. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/52/SR.38 and 47).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/52/L.19 AND A/C.2/52/L.42

2. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/52/L.19), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 50/116 of 20 December 1995 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 on the implementation of the outcome of the Global

* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/52/629 and addenda.

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Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April-6 May 1994,

"Convinced that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to global climate change and sea level rise, and that the potential effects of global climate change and sea level rise, increasing strength and frequency of tropical storms, the El Niño phenomena and drought have resulted in the inundation of some islands and caused serious loss of resources in their exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture,

"Reaffirming the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21[1] adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session (23-28 June 1997) and decision 5/1 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session (7-25 April 1997),

"Also reaffirming its decision at its nineteenth special session to convene a two-day special session, preceding its fifty-fourth session, for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2]

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

"2. Welcomes the action of the Secretary-General to restructure and appropriately strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit in accordance with Assembly resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996;

"3. Appreciates the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development in following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and welcomes the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2001,[4] as adopted at its nineteenth special session (23-28 June 1997), which will, inter alia,

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[1] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[2] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] A/52/319.

[4] Resolution S-19/2, annex, appendix.

review the outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"4. Takes note with the appreciation of the modalities that have been instituted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize resources, including technical capacity for small island developing States, with respect to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 51/183 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996;

"5. Calls for the participation as observers of members of the regional commissions in the two-day special session for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action and in its preparatory process;

"6. Welcomes the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing Assembly resolution 49/122, invites the Programme to continue to implement all the provisions of both the Technical Assistance Programme and the information network for Small Island Developing States, and welcomes the regional and subregional efforts by small island developing States, which have enabled the commencement of implementation of both programmes;

"7. Also welcomes the actions taken by the regional commissions and organizations in support of activities related to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has a strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that context notes with satisfaction that a post at the P-4 level has been established in the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries following the recent restructuring of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

"9. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof, commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and the modalities that it adopted for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

"10. Further calls upon both the bilateral and multilateral donor communities to mobilize adequate financial resources to supplement efforts by small island developing States, at both the national and regional levels, in the implementation of the programmes referred to in operative

paragraph 6 of the present resolution, including by providing support to existing regional and subregional institutions;

"11. Welcomes the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, for a meeting between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and stresses the need for further collaboration to facilitate preparation of project portfolios;

"12. Requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in cooperation with the international community, to enhance efforts in coordination activities within the United Nations system and to strengthen national and regional partnerships for a disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century, including requirements for effective disaster reduction capacities and measures, in line with General Assembly resolution 51/183;

"13. Urges the international donor community, including international financial institutions, to support adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threatening sea level rise that may be experienced as a consequence of the impact of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere;

"14. Invites the Global Environment Facility, in accordance with its operational strategies, to further support its climate change enabling activities and short-term mitigation projects in small island developing States, especially the financing of commercial energy development and efficiency improvement in small island developing States;

"15. Takes note of the progress in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, and invites all relevant participants to continue to support the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in further work to refine the index, as necessary;

"16. Takes note of the report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-first session,[5] and decides to retain the status of Vanuatu as a least developed country, pending the finalization of the vulnerability index and the next review in the year 2000;

"17. Invites the World Tourism Organization and relevant United Nations agencies and programmes to urgently develop strategies with existing regional and subregional tourism organizations in small island developing States to further facilitate sustainable tourism development as an essential contribution to an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism;

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[5] E/1997/35.

"18. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled: 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled: 'Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"19. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-third session, a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 50/116 of 20 December 1995."

3. At the 47th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hans-Peter Glanzer (Austria), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/52/L.42), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada made a statement (see A/C.2/52/SR.47).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/52/L.42 (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 50/116 of 20 December 1995 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 on and related to the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held at Bridgetown, Barbados, from 25 April to 6 May 1994,

Convinced that small island developing States are particularly vulnerable to the potential effects of global climate change and sea level rise, and that tropical storms, the El Niño phenomenon and drought have resulted in the inundation of some islands and have caused serious loss of resources in their exclusive economic zones, economic infrastructure, human settlements and culture,

Reaffirming the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session held from

23 to 28 June 1997[6] and resolution 5/1 adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, held from 7 to 25 April 1997,[7]

Reaffirming also the decision taken at its nineteenth special session[8] to convene a two-day special session, preceding its fifty-fourth session, for the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[10] and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

2. Welcomes the action of the Secretary-General to restructure the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 49/122 of 19 December 1994 and 51/183 of 16 December 1996 and his proposal to suitably strengthen the Unit;

3. Appreciates the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development in following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and welcomes the multi-year programme of work for the Commission on Sustainable Development, 1998-2002, as adopted by the Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[11] pursuant to which the Commission will, inter alia, review the outstanding chapters of the Programme of Action;

4. Decides to invite States members of the specialized agencies that are not States members of the United Nations to participate in the two-day special session for the review and appraisal of the Barbados Programme of Action, and in the preparatory meetings therefor in the capacity of observers;

5. Welcomes the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, invites the Programme to

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[6] Resolution S/19-2, annex.

[7] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 9 (E/1997/29), chap. I, resolution 5/1.

[8] Resolution S/19-2, annex, para. 71.

[9] Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publications, Sales No. 94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[10] A/52/319.

[11] Resolution S/19-2, annex, appendix.

continue to implement all the provisions of both the Technical Assistance Programme, known as SIDSTAP, and the Small Island Developing States Information Network, known as SIDSNET, and welcomes the regional and subregional efforts by small island developing States that have enabled the commencement of the implementation of both programmes;

6. Also welcomes the actions taken by the regional commissions and organizations in support of activities related to the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development continues to have the strengthened capacity to carry out, in accordance with its mandate, the research and analysis necessary to complement the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that context notes with satisfaction the strengthening of the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries as reflected in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, following the recent restructuring of the Conference;

8. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to continue to take the necessary actions for effective follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof, commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and the modalities that it adopted for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

9. Takes note with appreciation of modalities that have been instituted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, to mobilize resources, including technical capacity for small island developing States, with respect to the further implementation of the Programme of Action, and in that regard requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 51/183 and 51/185 of 16 December 1996;

10. Calls upon both the bilateral and multilateral donor communities to mobilize adequate financial resources to supplement efforts by small island developing States, at both the national and regional levels, in the implementation of the programmes referred to in operative paragraph 5 above, including support to existing regional and subregional institutions;

11. Welcomes the action taken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, as regards a meeting between representatives of small island developing States and prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, and stresses the need for further collaboration among small island developing States and agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to facilitate preparation of project portfolios;

12. Requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, in cooperation with the international community, to enhance efforts in respect of coordination activities within the United Nations system and to strengthen national and regional partnerships for a disaster reduction strategy for the twenty-first century, including requirements for effective disaster reduction and prevention capacities and measures for small island developing States in line with General Assembly resolution 51/183;

13. Urges the international donor community, including international financial institutions, to support adaptation efforts by small island developing States to cope with the threatening sea level rise that may be experienced as a consequence of the impact of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere;

14. Welcomes the activities undertaken by the Global Environmental Facility, in accordance with its operational strategy, and invites it, in accordance with relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[12] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[13] and the decisions of its Council, to further support the objectives of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

15. Notes the progress in the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations, and invites all relevant actors to continue to support the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on further work in refining the index, as necessary;

16. Invites the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, and the World Tourism Organization, to urgently develop strategies with existing national, regional and subregional tourism organizations in small island developing States to further facilitate sustainable tourism development as an essential element towards an action-oriented international programme of work on sustainable tourism;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on actions taken to implement the present resolution and paragraph 10 of Assembly resolution 50/116 of 20 December 1995.

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[12] A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

[13] See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.